

S E C R E T

6 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

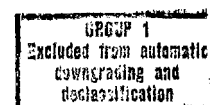
SUBJECT : Meeting with Tom Karamessines on 15 May 1969

1. I had made an appointment to see Tom Karamessines, DDP, in his office at 1100 on 15 May 1969. As I was waiting in the outer office, Howard Ehrmann came out.

2. After some personal chitchat, Tom told me that he had just finished talking with Howard Ehrmann who had asked him to have me extended for a year, and to extend [] and []. He said that he had phoned Col. White after Howard left but that White had said "No" to all three. He added, however, that he thought that for compassionate reasons (Bill's son's situation) that he could extend Bill until September.

3. I said that I was very sorry to hear this, but that I had planned to talk about the same thing, that is, extensions for Bill and Lloyd, and had not known that Howard was going to take it up with him before I saw him (Tom). I told Tom that what we had been producing was a quality product and that we had to have "the good guys" to do it right; that Lloyd and Bill were two of the good guys we really had to have in order to do it; that Bill is about the only guy who can do the WE station and headquarters histories, etc. I further pointed out that we also had the "bad guys", the fellows who either couldn't or wouldn't do satisfactory work. I mentioned [] as examples, stating that I would not think of asking them to stay on since they were just not that good and much of what they had done had to be done over. (I made this point because I didn't want Tom to think that I was asking for all my writers indiscriminately, but was only asking for the valuable ones.) It didn't any good, however, as Tom said that he had pretty blindly clear instructions from Col. White on this subject, and had had his head beaten in too many times already.

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4. Although it was pretty clear to me that I wasn't going to win this one, I tried again to convince him that it was important to have the right guys for this job, and that just anyone" wouldn't do. Same result.

5. I then asked if he had anyone in mind to replace me at year-end, and he said he did not. He then said that Mr.

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[REDACTED]

that he might be all right, but would like to think about other choices before saying definitely.

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7. I then took up the main policy matter on which I had prepared an Aide Memoire which I gave him. (See attachment). The two points that Tom Karamessines felt should be implemented were those in paragraph 4A and 4C of the Aide Memoire, namely that "A separate section be established in the Historical Staff to be responsible for the card indices and documents, as they are accumulated, for the other three directorates, or, at minimum, be kept in separate file cabinets."; and that "there be no access to DDP material under [REDACTED] control without proper clearance, i.e., only in the presence of and with the approval obtained by [REDACTED]

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8. Mr. Karamessines said that he was not in favor of mixing DDP cards and documents with those of other directorates, but felt we should keep them separate.

9. As to the continued control of HS/CSG cards and documents, he said he would rather not change the slots from DCI

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to DDP (as suggested in 4D); rather, he preferred that I simply handle this with Professor Ehrmann and obtain his agreement to this succession. I said I would do this. I asked Tom if he wished to keep his copy of the Aide Memoire, but he said he did not and returned it to me. It is his copy that is attached.



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Executive Secretary
CS Historical Board

Attachment

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